



WHITE ROBE LODGE

5th October 2026

Expert Panel Southern Link Inland Port
Attn: Cindy Robinson (Chair)

To Whom it May Concern

Please find enclosed below, answers to the questions you raised.

(7)

Thoroughbred Mares on WRL are bred from September 1 until around Mid December sometimes a wee bit later.

Foaling commences start of August sometimes end of July if they foal early. Foaling generally finishes Early December.

(8)

While we understand that some stud farms may have fully lit foaling areas, this has not been our practise at White Robe Lodge. We have always preferred mares to be left in an unlit area while they are preparing to foal. A floodlight is positioned over the foaling yards and remains on through the night so the area can be monitored when required. This has been our established practise for many years.

(9)

Our current approach to sudden noise, such as fireworks around Guy Fawkes, is to move stock as far as practicable towards the western end of the farm, where there is less residential activity and the environment is quieter, and to monitor the horses closely.

We would take a similar approach where possible in response to known periods of increased port activity. However, unlike occasional fireworks, port operations would be on going and may involve unpredictable noise, so our ability to manage the horses by moving stock would be limited.

We do not consider boy-racer noise to be an appropriate comparison.

Boy-racer activity is occasional and illegal, whereas the proposed port would be a permanent industrial operation operating 24hrs a day immediately beside White Robe Lodge. Our concern is the frequency and unpredictability of industrial noise and the potential for sudden noises to startle horses. Occasional noise from an unrelated activity does not address the concern about a permanent noise source in this location.



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We have regular aircraft and occasional rescue helicopter flights over the property, and in our experience these do not startle the horses. We therefore do not consider them directly comparable to the sudden, ground-level noises associated with the port operation, which are our particular concern.

In our experience, rural neighbours are respectful and considerate. If roadworks or activities such as hedge cutting or the use of machinery were planned along our boundary, we would expect to be given some notice where practicable, allowing us to take appropriate measures with the horses.

Our concern with the proposed port is different because it would be permanent industrial operation, with on going activity and the potential for unexpected noise. This makes it much more difficult for us to anticipate and manage the horse's response.

Just to clarify, while the foaling unit is particularly sensitive during the foaling season, the paddocks within the foaling unit are also used outside that period for mares with foals at foot and dry mares. The foaling unit therefore remains an active part of the Stud's Day-to-day operation throughout the year.

(10/11)

The proposed measures would provide some comfort if they were implemented and actively monitored. However, they would not remove our concerns about sudden and unpredictable noises.

Our concern is not simply compliance with overall noise limits, but the potential for unexpected bangs, alarms and machinery noise to startle horses. Even with the proposed mitigation measures, we do not believe it can be guaranteed that these sudden noises will be avoided. We would therefore welcome the proposed measures, but they would not fully address our concerns about the impact of unpredictable noise on the foaling unit.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Stewart".

Karen Stewart
Stud Manager
White Robe Lodge.